

Appl. No. 10/025,318
Amdt. dated April 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Abstract and the specification have been amended.

Claims 1–3 and 10–11 have been amended to overcome the claims objections.

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 2–4 and 10 have been objected to but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. Thus, claims 1, 2, 3 and 4 are now allowable.

New claims 12–15 have been added for consideration which is similar to claim 1, except for recitation of four fluorescent lamps and corresponding four inverter ballast circuit, each for each fluorescent lamp.

Claims 13, 14 and 15 depend on claim 12 and include added limitations as in claims 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

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As it can be seen from amended claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, the present invention is broadly directed to a unique electronic ballast system for operating fluorescent lamp with universal input of from 108V to 305V. See specification, page 1, lines 3-5; page 3, lines 13-16. The system also includes a subsystem with a battery, along with a battery charger and associated logic that provides for emergency lighting. Specification page 3, lines 14-16. This ballast system is unique and of paramount commercial significance.

Claims 12-15 parallel claims 1-4 except that they call for one to four, preferably four, fluorescent lamps with corresponding numbers of emergency inverters which insure one lamp to remain lighted when, for some reasons, the other lamps are disabled.

Neither U.S. Patent No. 5,907,223 (Gu et al.) nor U.S. Patent No. 6,031,342 (Ribarich et al.), alone or in combination disclose or suggest the unique features of the claims 1-4 or 12-15.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks a favorable action is requested on claims 1-4 and 12-15 which are now all the claims in this application.

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No additional fee is necessary by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Badie', is written over a horizontal line.

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